

tion. Laws have been enacted which deny us decent passage upon the railroads of every State in the South, save North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The enforcement of these laws are often accompanied with the most shameful brutality. Colored ladies and gentlemen of character and refinement are forced from decent cars on the railroads, and waiting-rooms at the stations, by the hands of hardhearted ruffians who seem to take special delight in their work. Our mothers, our wives, our sisters and our daughters, are exposed to conditions and treatment too horrible for cool contemplation. In some of the cities we are denied the use of the street cars under, and by virtue of, laws enacted by the States

We note these facts in sorrow. We have no desire to encroach upon the rights of any one. We have rights under the law, and simply ask that they be respected. We are human beings, and it is not too much to ask that we be treated as such. We are Christians, and feel that we may properly appeal to all other Christians to unite with us in our efforts to free ourselves and our country from the presence of such great evils.

*Tenth,* We have also to note among our discouragements the horrid spectre of Lynch Law, which has been doing its work of lawless murder in all parts of the land. In the South the victims have been men and women of our race. Against this terrible enemy of the Republic we appeal to all good citizens. We have no sympathy with the brutes who could be guilty of the heinous crime most frequently charged against the victim of the mob. If guilty they should meet their just punishment at the hands of the law. Otherwise the law is subverted, and we are exposed to the reign of anarchy. Unless the fell spirit of mob violence is checked, we feel that the Republic is nearing a crisis in its history which must put to test all of its foundations. We shall exert every power at our command in the prevention of crime, and appeal to all good citizens to do the same.

*Eleventh,* We take special pride in the fact that in North Carolina we have enjoyed a much larger measure of liberty than in any other State of the South. While we have not been entirely exempt from the prevailing spirit in States South of us, in the main, we have sustained